



# DEATH

## The stopper of joys and assassin of lives

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful


All praise be to Allah Almighty Who is High in His skies, Who has made death and life one of His signs. Peace and blessings of Allah be upon Muhammad the master of creatures, the owner of the marvelous miracles, and upon his family and companions, the leaders of truth and the breeze of the virtuous souls.

O Muslim brother: it was narrated that a Bedouin was riding a camel. The camel fell and died! The Bedouin got down and moved round it pondering! He said: Why do not you stand?! Why do not you be resurrected?! These are your limbs, complete! Your organs are sound! What is the matter with you?! What is that which made you stand up?! What is that which breathed life into you?! What had killed you?! What had prevented you from moving?! And then he left it and moved thinking about its matter!

Brother: it is (Death!) Destroyer of creatures... Desolator of countries... Maker of orphans... Degradator of the strong tyrants... It does not know the young... It does not distinguish between the mean and the honorable... It does not show favor for those of sublime positions... Its swords are unsheathed on creatures... Its spears are directed to their chests... Its arrows do not mistake the hearts... It is an announcement that we all know its place; and it is as if we were in our affairs and we did not know.

Brother: it is (Death!) How many hearts it has injured... How much grieves it has caused... It is uglier than being described! And it is more severe to be identified! Its secret is hidden from creatures... It is only known by the Dispeller of harm and disasters... Allah Almighty, Glorified and Exalted...

Brother: The cup of death is bitterer than colocynth! Its taste is



known only to those who tasted it! But how could those who tasted it describe its reality?!

When 'Amr Ibn Al-'Aas (may Allah be pleased with him) was dying his son said to him: O father you were saying: I wonder how can a man dying while he has his mind and tongue, and do not describe it (death)?!

He said: O son, death is greater than being described! I will, however, describe some of it: By Allah it is as if I am carrying over my shoulders the mountains of Radhwa and Tihâma! It is as if I am breathing through the eye of the needle! It is as if there was a thorn of boxthorn in my belly! It is as if the sky has collapsed on earth and that I was in between them!

Brother: How intense is the heart of this who knows that there is a day in which he will gulp the bitterness of that cup! Brother, would you say with me with a sincere heart: O Allah, facilitate the stupor of death for us, when our books are folded and our days end, with Your mercy, You Who has mercy upon those who seek refuge with You... Who bestows forgiveness to sinners.

Brother: Can I alert your inattention?! Can I terrify your heart?! Know then brother, this horrible description of death!

'Umar Ibn Al-Khattâb (may Allah be pleased with him) said to Ka'b: O Ka'b, tell us about death! He said: Death is as a tree of thorns entered into the belly of the son of Adam. Each thorn took a vein! A strong man pulled it, so he cut some and left others!

Brother: O Allah how horrible death is! How severe and great it is! It is also narrated that: Death is stronger than beating by swords! Sawing by saws! And clipping by scissors! {And the stupor of death will come in truth: "This is what you have been avoiding!"}[Surat Qâf 50:19]

{وَجَاءَتْ سَكْرَةُ الْمَوْتِ بِالْحَقِّ ذَلِكَ مَا كُنْتَ مِنْهُ تَحِيدُ} ق: ١٩

Transliteration: Wajaat sakratu almawti bialhaqqi thalika ma kunta minhu taheedu

Really, What a stupor of death! What a severity! There when the soul rattles! Eyes are fixed! Hearts throb! Words stutter!

O Allah! How much anguish there is in that! How many disasters and afflictions are there in that for souls!

My brother for the sake of Allah: is not it terrifying for the souls that our Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, when he responded to the call of his Lord, he asked his Lord Almighty to alleviate the stupor of death?! The mother of the believers, Aisha, may Allah be pleased with her, narrated that to us; she said: "There was a leather or wood container full of water in front of Allah's Apostle (at the time of his death). He would put his hand into the water and rub his face with it, saying: "None has the right to be worshipped but Allah! No doubt, death has its stupors." [Narrated by Al-Bukhari]

«إن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم كان بين يديه ركوة، أو علبة فيها ماء - يشك عمر - فجعل يدخل يده في الماء، فيمسح بها وجهه، ويقول: لا إله إلا الله، إن للموت سكرات» رواه البخاري

In another narration, At-Tirmidhi reported about him saying: "O Allah help me with the distress of death! And with the stupors of death!"

«اللهم! أعني على غمرات الموت أو سكرات الموت» رواه الترمذي

O brother: How great is this stupor of death! How severe are its distresses! Is there any one after the Prophet of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, who wishes to drink a clear cup of

death?!

Imagine yourself, O you conceited, while the stupors of death have surrounded you! Moaning and distresses strike you! One says: So-and-so has written his will and his money cannot be counted! Another says: The tongue of so-and-so becomes heavy and he cannot identify his neighbors! And he does not speak to his brothers! It is as if I was looking at you hearing speeches but could not respond! Your daughter cries as if she were a captive. She supplicates saying: My love! O Father! Who is for my orphanhood after you?! Who will meet my needs?! By Allah you can hear the words! But you cannot respond!

My Muslim brother: For such a day, prepare your provisions! For such a day, abandon stubbornness and depravity... For such a day, fear the Lord of creatures...

Al-Hassan Al-Basri (may Allah have mercy on him) visited a sick person. He found him in his death stupors! He looked at his anguish and the distress befalling him, so he returned to his family with a different complexion than that he had when he had gone out!

They said to him: have some food, may Allah have mercy on you. He said: O my family! Have your food and drink. By Allah I have seen a demise that I will work for till I meet it!

O brother: These are the true righteous... They are preparing for leaving while the heedless were negligent till death has attacked them! Sorrows are long... Wounds are a lot... How happy are those of good end the day when the angels receive them saying: {Salamun 'Alaikum (peace be on you) enter you Paradise, because of (the good) which you used to do (in the world).} [Surat An-Nahl 16:32]

{ يَقُولُونَ سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ أَدْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ } النحل: ٣٢

Transliteration: yaqooloona salamun AAalaykumu odkhuloo aljan-nata bima kuntum taAAamaloona

Allah Almighty has said: { Their greeting on the Day they shall meet Him will be "Salam: Peace (i.e. the angels will say to them: Salamu 'Alaikum)!" And He has prepared for them a generous reward (i.e. Paradise). } [Surat Al-Ahzâb 33:44]

{ تَحِيَّتُهُمْ يَوْمَ يَلْقَوْنَهُ سَلَامٌ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَرِيمًا } الأحزاب: ٤٤

Transliteration: Tahiyyatuhum yawma yalqawnahu salamun waaAAadda lahum ajran kareeman

Al-Barrâ' Ibn 'Azib (may Allah be pleased with him) said: (the Angel of Death greets the believer when taking his soul. He does not take a soul till he greets him).

My brother for the sake of Allah: If the cover of such evanescent world is revealed, these believing souls get out carried in joy to their Creator the Almighty... They are surrounded by the close angels! The gates of heavens are opened for them! The dwellers of heavens rejoice over them, they praise their owners (of the souls)! They smell their pleasant odor that resembles the deeds of their bodies!


O Allah! How happy are such moments for these pure souls... It seems as if they are saying: farewell O world of misfortunes and annoyance... farewell O world of misery and fatigue... farewell O mean, stagnant and perished world.

O brother: May Allah keep us away from each evil. This is the story of pure souls! I will tell you about the story of its pure ascension, as being informed by the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him... He, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, has said: "when a true believer is about to die, white faced angles, as bright as the sun, descend from heaven for him till they sit where he can

see them, they bring along shrouds from paradise, and (hunût) embalmment of paradise, then the Angel of Death comes and sits by his head and say: "O peaceful soul, come out to the forgiveness and blessings of God", it comes out as smoothly as a drop of water flows, the Angel takes the soul and, with a blink of an eye, shrouds and embalms it in the shroud and embalmment of paradise, it comes out bearing the best smell of musk found on earth. The Prophet said: the angles ascend to heaven, whenever they pass by a group of angles they wonder: what is this good spirit? They answer: he is so and so, calling him with his favorable names, until they reach the first heaven and ask permission to enter. He is granted the permission and is accompanied by heavenly people of each heaven to the following one till he reaches the seventh heaven. God Almighty says: record his book of deeds in 'illiyyun (A Register inscribed to which bear witness those nearest (to Allah, i.e. the angels)), turn him back to earth, Thereof (the earth) We created them, and into it We shall return them, and from it We shall bring them out once again" [Reported by Ahmed and others, authenticated by Al-Albani]

«إن العبد المؤمن إذا كان في إقبال من الآخرة وانقطع من الدنيا ، نزلت إليه الملائكة ، كأن على وجوههم الشمس ، معهم كفن من أكفان الجنة ، وحنوط من حنوط الجنة ، فجلسوا منه مد البصر ، ثم يجيء ملك الموت حتى يجلس عند رأسه ، فيقول : يا أيتها النفس الطيبة ، اخرجي إلى مغفرة من الله ورضوان ، قال : فتخرج تسيل كما تسيل القطرة من في السقاء ، فيأخذها فإذا أخذها لم يدعوها في يده طرفة عين ، حتى يأخذوها فيجعلوها في ذلك الكفن وذلك الحنوط ، ويخرج منها كأطيب نفحة مسك وجدت على وجه الأرض ، قال : فيصعدون بها ، فلا يمرون بها ، يعني على ملأ من الملائكة ، إلا قالوا : ما هذه الروح الطيبة ؟ فيقولون : فلان ابن فلان ، بأحسن أسمائه التي كانوا يسمونه بها في الدنيا ، حتى ينتهوا بها إلى السماء ، فيستفتحون له ، فيفتح له ، فيشيعه من كل سماء مقربوها ، إلى السماء التي تليها ، حتى ينتهي بها إلى السماء التي فيها الله ، فيقول الله عز وجل : اكتبوا كتاب عبدي في عليين ، وأعيدوه إلى الأرض ، فإني منها خلقتهم ، وفيها أعيدهم ، ومنها أخرجهم تارة أخرى...» رواه الإمام أحمد وغيره، وصححه الألباني

My brother: Do you see how these chaste souls are happy for meeting their Creator Almighty?! How happy are these souls that deal with their Lord Almighty in this world with sincerity and faithfulness, so they have the reward of the men of truth and He dresses them with the robe of the Siddiqûn (those followers of the Prophets



who were first and foremost to believe in them, like Abu Bakr As-Siddiq (may Allah be pleased with him)... For the like of this let the workers work...

Then, brother, do you know the story of such souls that turned away from their Creator Almighty. They disbelieved in worshipping Him, the Almighty?! What is their story? Allah Almighty has punished them as enemies to whom He has prepared torture and punishment that hearts split when hearing them!

Our honest Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, tells us about these evil souls that do not worship Allah Almighty. He, peace be upon him, has said: "when an unbeliever is about to die, black faced angles descend from heaven for him till they sit where he can see them, they bring along rags, then the Angle of Death comes and sits by his head and say: "O wicked soul, come out to the wrath and anger of Allah", it sinks in his body, the angle of Death brings it out, tearing veins and nerves just like skewers (a piece of iron which grills meat) are separated from wet wool, the Angle takes the soul and, with a blink of an eye, puts it in the rags, it comes out bearing the stink of the most rotten corpse found on earth. The angles ascend to heaven, whenever they pass by a group of angles they wonder: what is this stinking soul? They answer: he is so and so, calling him with his worst names, until they reach the first heaven and ask permission to enter. They are denied the permission. Then the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, recited: {for them the gates of heaven will not be opened, and they will not enter Paradise until the camel goes through the eye of the needle (which is impossible)} [Surat Al-A'râf: 40]

And Allah Glorified and Exalted says: record his book of deeds in sijiin (the lowest of the lowest), so his soul is dropped fiercely. Then he recited: {and whoever assigns partners to Allâh, it is as if he had fallen from the sky, and the birds had snatched him, or the wind had thrown him to a far off place} [Surat Al-Haj: 31]." [Narrated



by Ahmad and others, authenticated by Al-Albnaï]

«...وإن العبد الكافر إذا كان في انقطاع من الدنيا وإقبال من الآخرة، نزل إليه من السماء ملائكة سود الوجوه، معهم المسوح، فيجلسون منه مد البصر، ثم يجيء ملك الموت حتى يجلس عند رأسه، فيقول: أيتها النفس الخبيثة، اخرجي إلى سخط من الله وغضب، قال: فتتفرق في جسده، فينتزعها كما ينتزع السفود من الصوف المبلول، فيأخذها، فإذا أخذها لم يدعها في يده طرفة عين، حتى يجعلوها في تلك المسوح، ويخرج منها كأنتن ربح خبيثة وجدت على وجه الأرض، فيصعدون بها، فلا يمرون بها على ملاء من الملائكة إلا قالوا: ما هذا الروح الخبيث؟ فيقولون فلان ابن فلان، بأقبح أسمائه التي كانوا يسمونه بها في الدنيا، حتى ينتهي بها إلى السماء الدنيا، فيستفتح له، فلا يفتح له، ثم قرأ رسول الله { لَا تَفْتَحْ لَهُمُ أَبْوَابَ السَّمَاءِ وَلَا يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ حَتَّى يَلِجَ الْجَمَلُ فِي سَمِّ الْخِيَاطِ } الأعراف: ٤٠، فيقول الله عز وجل: اكتبوا كتابه في سجين، في الأرض السفلى، فتطرح روحه طرحاً، ثم قرأ: { وَمَنْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَكَأَنَّمَا خَرَّ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ فَتَخَطَّفَهُ الطَّيْرُ أَوْ تَهْوَى بِهِ الرِّيحُ فِي مَكَانٍ سَحِيقٍ } الحج: ٣١» رواه الإمام أحمد وغيره، وصححه الألباني

O brother: Do you see what the destiny of those of bad ends is? May Allah protect us from bad ends... My brother: How miserable is that he whom the gates of heavens close against! How wrecked is that he who is faced by the angels of torture!

{ And if you could but see when the Zâlimûn (polytheists and wrong-doers) are in the agonies of death, while the angels are stretching forth their hands (saying): "Deliver your souls! This day you shall be recompensed with the torment of degradation because of what you used to utter against Allâh other than the truth. And you used to reject His Ayât (proofs, evidence, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) with disrespect! } [Surat Al-An'âm 6:93]

{ وَلَوْ تَرَى إِذِ الظَّالِمُونَ فِي غَمَرَاتِ الْمَوْتِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ بَاسِطُوا أَيْدِيهِمْ أَخْرَجُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ أَلْيَوْمَ تُجْزَوْنَ عَذَابَ الْهُونِ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَقُولُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ غَيْرَ الْحَقِّ وَكُنْتُمْ عَنْ آيَاتِهِ تَسْتَكْبِرُونَ } الأنعام: ٩٣

Transliteration: walaw tara ithi alththalimoona fee ghamarati almawti waalmalaikatu basitoo aydeehim akhrijoo anfusakumu alyawma tu-jzawna AAathaba alhooni bima kuntum taqooloona AAala Allahi ghayra alhaqqi wakuntum AAan ayatihi tastakbiroona

O Muslim brother: They are only two positions after death that has

no third! You either receive the angels from Allah who give you the glad tidings of the pleasure of Allah Almighty; that day you are the happy winner and the successful... or you receive angels with black faces that announce the dissatisfaction of Allah and your bad end! How miserable you are! How great your loss is!

My brother: are not there any tears that you shed? Do not you discharge an exhalation? Do not you release some pain among your ribs?

Really, hearts have become hard! But on them is the Rân (covering of sins and evil deeds)!


We bid farewell to the dead... while our hearts are dead!  
We bid farewell to the dead... without lessons and examples!  
We bid farewell to the dead... without asking about the enduring home in hell or paradise?  
We bid farewell to the dead... and here we are dead before dying!

My brother for the sake of Allah, this is (the cup of death!) This is the decision of the Ever Living One Who dies not, Glorified and Exalted! Do you remember my brother that one day you will gulp the cup till the end?!!

My brother: (This is the destroyer of pleasures!) The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, urged you to remember it a lot! He, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said "Remember the destroyer of pleasures a lot", [Reported by At-Tirmidhi]

«أكثرُوا ذكْرَ هَادِمِ اللذَاتِ» رواه الترمذي

O brother: Do you know the meaning of (the destroyer of pleasures?!) It is the stopper and killer of them! It is really an eliminator of luxuries and stopper of pleasures! Is there a pondering person?!



My brother: Remembering death entails the true dedication to Allah Almighty, and removes the impacts of the worldly life from the heart!

Ad-Daqâq said: (This who remembers death a lot is granted with three things: the acceleration of repentance, the satisfaction of heart and the vigor of worshipping, while this who forgets death is punished by three things: the procrastination of repentance, letting the satisfaction of subsistence and laziness in worshipping.)

My brother: would you not join the caravan of the discerning knowledgeable people?! Those who have made death mentioning as their slogan and self-accounting their cover... Congratulations to those who are among them! They are passing to fill the soul with lessons and recollections...

This is Sufiân Ath-Thauri (may Allah have mercy on him) when death was mentioned before him he stayed days in disturbance! Whenever he was asked about anything he replied I do not know! I do not know!

At-Taymi (May Allah have mercy on him) said: (Two things have deprived me from the delights of this worldly life: remembering death and remembering standing before the hands of Allah Almighty!)

Whenever Mohamed Ibn Wâsi' (May Allah have mercy on him) wanted to sleep he informed his family before going to bed: I bid you Farwell! It may be my death in which I will not wake up! This was his tradition whenever he wanted to sleep.

O Muslim brother: that was the case of the righteous... They knew that there would be a day in which they would depart this world! They remembered the hour of departure and prepared the provisions for this long travel...

My brother: what had happened to us? Negligence has covered our hearts that it has not left a place to remember such a horrible day.

O brother: This is to whom has heard my call:  
Brothers what such nap while you are awaking?!  
What is such bewilderment while you are looking?!  
What is such negligence while you are present?  
What is such stupor while you are awake?!  
What is such stillness while you are called?!  
What is such staying while you are leaving?!

Is it not the time for those who are sleeping to wake up? Is it not the time for those who are negligent to learn a lesson?! Know that all people in this world are traveling! Do, therefore, good deeds for yourself that can save you in the day of resurrection from Hellfire!


This is the time for travel so be careful  
What do you see serves instead of carefulness  
Do not be conceited by today or tomorrow  
A conceited may be in danger

My brother: is it not strange that every day we bid farewell to a dead while our heart does not move and that it does not cause fear or horror?!

It seems that as if death was written on this deceased only! My brother: how ugly is such negligence! How loathsome and repugnant is it! This is the blindness of the hearts; how bad is such blindness: {Verily, it is not the eyes that grow blind, but it is the hearts which are in the breasts that grow blind.} [Surat Al-Hajj 22:46]

{فَإِنَّهَا لَا تَعْمَى الْأَبْصَارُ وَلَكِنْ تَعْمَى الْقُلُوبُ الَّتِي فِي الصُّدُورِ} الحج: ٤٦

Transliteration: fainnaha la taAama alabsaru walakin taAama alqu-loobu allatee fee alssudoori



Ar-Rabî' Ibn Burra said: (I am astonished from the creatures how they are absentminded from a true matter seen by their eyes and witnessed believingly by their hearts of what the messengers of Allah have come with! Yet, they turn away in heedlessness; playing in falsehood!)

My brother for the sake of Allah: Remembering death is the best cure for negligence! Wow if this is not a cure, then which medicine can cure you?! Which antidote can save you?! My brother, truly, the cover of negligence is the worst cover. The dress of negligence is the worst dress... This who wears it will face all ailments.

My brother: If you are preoccupied by the worldly life, remember death... as you are departing! The best whip for the soul is remembering death! This is the deterring whip with which the righteous beat their hearts, so they are restrained and become obedient and manageable when following the path of good deeds, while they are averse and ungovernable when approaching the path of sins and faults! (You arrogant remember death and its stupor! Remember the difficulty and bitterness of its cup. How true is the promise of death! How fair is it as a ruler! Death is enough to wound hearts, to cause eyes to shed tears, to disperse groups, to destroy pleasures and stop wishes!

Have you, son of Adam, thought about the day of your death and moving from your place? Have you thought about moving from amplitude to narrowness? Have you thought about the betraying of a companion and the desertion of a brother and a friend? You will be taken from your bed and cover to the unknown! You will be covered by dust and mud instead of your soft quilt! O collector of money and diligent in building, by Allah the money you have is only coffins! By Allah they will be taken away and spoiled. Your body will be dust.

Where is the money you have collected? Did it save you from the

horrors?! You have, however, left it to whom does not thank you!  
You have come with your sins to He Who will not excuse you!!)  
Imam Al-Kurtubi.

My brother: Prolonged hopes are behind every adversity! All have prolonged hopes in the morning and at night!

O Allah! We have spread out hopes; have been covered by hopes and put our heads on pillows of hopes! Neither the aged is deterred by his nearness to death, nor the young is deterred by the death of a young person!

Will you lust for immortality damn you  
By Allah it has a messenger  
As if dust was piled on you  
You will not leave anything for people

My brother: Remembering death is a useful antidote for the illness of (prolonged hope!)

It was reported that a woman came to the mother of the believers Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) complaining from the hardness of her heart! Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) said to her: (Mention death a lot so your heart will soften)! The woman did that and her heart became soft and she thanked Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her). Whoever has prolonged hopes depends on this transient worldly life, spends days without good deeds and wastes his life in the dreams of the hopes.

Al-Hassan Al-Basri (may Allah have mercy on him) said: (Whoever has prolonged hopes, will abuse deeds!)

My brother: stop by this story with the righteous who will teach you: what is meant by prolonged hopes!?

In a meeting which gathered the believing hearts in praying, there was the example of ascetics and the glitter of worshippers Ma'rûf Al-Karkhi (may Allah have mercy on him). Ma'rûf called for praying and then said to Mohamed Ibn Abi Tauba: come forward and be the Imam. Mohamed said: If I am to be the imam in this prayer I will not be Imam for you in any other prayer.

Ma'rûf said: do you speak to yourself that you will pray another prayer?!

We seek refuge with Allah from prolonged hopes that prevent good deeds.

O Muslim brother: How much time has elapsed of this worldly life? How many generations and nations have perished?

O brother: How many days have passed before you? How many months have passed before you? How many years have passed before you?

O brother: how many deceased among your brothers and lovers have you buried in dust?!

My brother: How many times daily, monthly or yearly do you remember death?!

My brother: how many times do yourself speak about your death today or tomorrow?!

My brother: How much of your life has passed while you spent it in wide hopes?!

Have you fulfilled all your hopes? If so, have your hopes given you what you wished for?!

O brother: Remember... then remember again... (A man has a Lord Whom he will meet, and a home in which he will dwell, so he must please his Lord before meeting Him and prepare his home before moving into it) Imam Ibn Al-Qayyim.

My brother: it is death, the unpleasant visitor, undesired arrival and

unwanted forthcoming... the stopper of pleasures... the disperser of groups and the scatterer of hopes.

My brother: Be careful! But is carefulness enough?! The lasting good deeds, my brother, are the best provisions and the best companion in the Hereafter. It is your garden in the day of death and your close companion when people leave your grave... {O you who believe! Fear Allah (by doing all that He has ordered and by abstaining from all that He has forbidden) as He should be feared. [Obey Him, be thankful to Him, and remember Him always], and die not except in a state of Islam (as Muslims) with complete submission to Allah.} [Surat Al-Imrân 3:102]

{ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ } آل عمران: ١٠٢

Transliteration: Ya ayyuha allatheena amanoo ittaqoo Allaha haqqa tuqatihi wala tamootunna illa waantum muslimoona

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Translated by Wathakker.net website  
Modified to meet with Authentic Hadith